

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01

DRC-01 /147 W

----- 023937

R 150740Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9600

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO UNN

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA UNN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

DIA

COMUSFORAZ

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 1922

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POWER STRUGGLE CONTINUES IN LABOR SECTOR

REF: LISBON 1884

SUMMARY: STRIKES AND OTHER WORKER PRESSURES AIMED AT
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IMMEDIATE WAGE HIKES AND INFLUENCE IN MANAGEMENT CONTINUE.

AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE BOGGS BELIEVES WFTU HAS GREAT INFLUENCE WITH TOP SYNDICATE LEADERS; BOGGS AND IRVING BROWN WILL SEE GEN SPINOLA MAY 17 OR 18. END SUMMARY.

1. PATTERN OF STRIKES DESCRIBED REFTEL CONTINUES, WITH MANAGEMENT GENERALLY AGREEING TO NEGOTIATE WAGES AND OTHER BENEFITS BUT TRYING TO HOLD BACK WORKER DEMANDS REGARDING CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL. IN SOME CASES, SUCH AS NATIONAL STEEL MILL, EMPLOYEES HAVE RETURNED TO WORK WITHOUT GETTING MANAGEMENT CHANGES; OTHER CASES ARE STALLED. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT DISPUTE IS AT DAILY NEWSPAPER O SECULO, WHICH HAS NOT APPEARED SINCE MAY 9; REAL STRUGGLE IS OVER CONTROL OF THE PAPER, ALTHOUGH BREAD-AND-BUTTER ISSUES ARE BEING USED TO CLOUD PICTURE.

2. SIXTEEN HUNDRED TIN AND WOLFRAMMINERS AT BERAT COMPANY HAVE STRUCK FOR MANAGEMENT CHANGES AND 240 DOLLAR MONTHLY MINIMUM SALARY (ABOUT TWICE CURRENT RATE). SEVERAL THOUSAND WOOL INDUSTRY WORKERS HAVE STRUCK OR STAGED SLOWDOWN TO SUPPORT SIMILAR DEMANDS, WHICH ARE BEING MADE IN OTHER INDUSTRIES AS WELL.

3. WFTU LEADERS STILL IN TOWN AND HUDDLING WITH LABOR LEADERS. AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVE IRVING BROWN LEFT LISBON MAY 12, BUT WILL RETURN MAY 17 FOR MEETING WITH GENERAL SPINOLA (MEETING ARRANGED BY EMBASSY). AFL-CIO REP MICHAEL BOGGS HAS REMAINED IN LISBON AND WILL ATTEND SPINOLA/BROWN MEETING. BOGGS BELIEVES WFTU GROUP, WHICH HAS ALREADY CALLED ON SPINOLA, HAS MAJOR INFLUENCE WITH PORTUGUESE LABOR LEADERS AND MAY PLAY KEY ROLE IN DRAFTING LABOR'S LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS. WFTU REPS CALLED PRESS CONFERENCE FOR EVENING OF MAY 13, BUT CANCELLED AT LAST MINUTE FOR UNKNOWN REASONS.

4. SEPTTEL ON LABOR SITUATION IN AMERICAN-OWNED FIRMS FOLLOWS. SCOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON01922
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740119-0629
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740546/aaaaboym.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LISBON 1884
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POWER STRUGGLE CONTINUES IN LABOR SECTOR
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO, WFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005